Daily Report

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FBIS-EEU-93-210 *2 November 1993*

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Secret Krajina-Croatia Talks Being Held in Oslo

LD0211123793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1215 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Geneva, 2 Nov (TANJUG)—Three-day secret talks on the conclusion of a cease-fire between Croatia and the republic of Serb Krajina started late yesterday afternoon in the vicinity of Oslo, TANJUG has learned from well-informed circles close to the international conference on former Yugoslavia.

Well-informed diplomatic sources at the Palais des Nations have announced that a meeting between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman is to be held, also in Oslo, later this week.

A 10-member delegation of the republic of Serb Krajina is led by Goran Hadzic; the delegation includes representatives of the Krajina political and military leadership. A Croatian delegation is led by chief of national security Hrvoje Sarinic.

The negotiations are being mediated by Stoltenberg's deputy, Knut Vollebaek, Ambassador Geert Ahrens, and UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] representatives.

Circles close to the international conference stress that if both sides sign the agreement on a total cease-fire, negotiations on the normalization of economic relations will soon follow, after which all remaining political issues between the republic of Serb Krajina and Croatia can begin to be resolved.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, who is in Denmark today, is leaving for Oslo tomorrow, where, it is being announced, he will hold talks with the heads of the two delegations and with officials at the conference.

Analysts in the Palais des Nations in Geneva say that Thorvald Stoltenberg, who, while Norweigan foreign minister, initiated the secret peace talks between 'Arafat and Rabin, is behind the secret negotiations.

Stoltenberg Comments on Peace Process

LD0111161893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1436 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, 1 Nov (TANJUG)—Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, said at a news conference today [words indistinct] when the peace plan on Bosnia will be signed. He also could not be more precise about the timing of the continued talks on Bosnia.

"I am not in a position to say whether and when the talks will resume," Stoltenberg said and added that the cochairmen will not schedule the new round of talks until they can be sure that the talks will result in a peace agreement, which implies the end of the war in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to Stoltenberg, the main obstacle to the signing of the peace agreement on Bosnia is 2.7 percent of the Bosnian territory. "I cannot understand the parties to the conflict in Bosnia, who, because of 2.7 percent of the territory, continue the war in which innocent people are being killed every day," he said.

Regarding the talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday, Stoltenberg said they discussed all aspects of the Yugoslav crisis, including a global approach to a solution of the crisis. In his opinion the global aspect implies that all questions of the Yugoslav crisis are to be examined, including the question of Kosovo.

Thorvald Stoltenberg spoke separately about the problems regarding the humanitarian aid deliveries to the war-threatened people in Bosnia. He called for much greater safety for the corridors used for bringing in humanitarian aid, particularly in the region of central Bosnia, where fierce fighting is under way between the Croats and the Muslims.

Thorvald Stoltenberg is familiar with the Yugoslav proposal on the establishment of an alternative humanitarian corridor from Bar to Sarajevo, which Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic presented to Willy Claes, chairman of the EC Ministerial Council, on 29 October. However, Stoltenberg failed to comment on this proposal in any detail but just said that it will be taken into consideration.

He added that the avalanche of bad news from Bosnia also contains some good news, primarily concerning the unhindered transportation of humanitarian aid from Belgrade through territories under the control of the republic of Srpska forces.

Referring to the Bosnian conflict again, the cochairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia said that he and Lord Owen are not sparing efforts in their search for a solution that will bring peace. That is why he again spoke in favor of resuming the negotiations on Bosnia.

Greek Police Allegedly Shoot Youth Near Border

AU0211103293 Tirana ATA in English 0914 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tirana, November 2 (ATA)—On October 31, at 1330, at the Kakavija border point, the Greek police handed over the dead body of the youth, Shefit Hysen Duraj, aged 19.

The youth was from Gllave e Vogel village, Tepelena District. The greek police intercepted the youth together with his brother and a relative, who were 20 km within the Greek border in the direction of Ioannina. The police immediately started shooting and rushing to catch them. Terrorized by the police fire and trying to escape the shells, the victim fell into an abyss and died while he was being sent to the Ioannina hospital.

Such criminal acts of the Greek police, cause increasing worry among the Albanian public. It is the second case in a very short time that Albanian youths, in order to escape the Greek police shells, end in the abyss.

Foreign Ministry Protests to Greece

AU0211103493 Tirana ATA in English 0921 GMT 2 Nov 93

["Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Albania" —ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, November 2 (ATA)—The latest tragic incidents in the Albanian-Greek border, which caused the death of three Albanian youths on October 19 and of the youth, Shefit Duraj, at 1330 at the Kakavija border point, on the Greek side of the border, have caused deep indignation among the Albanian public. The incidents also prove of a resolute engagement of the Greek police and border forces in a savage and cruel chasing of the unprotected Albanian emigrants.

Reports about the expulsion of some 5000 Albanians during the last week, a part of whom having regular visas, testify to the fact that the violent expulsion of the Albanian emigrants is being crystallized as a clear cut line of the Greek policies towards Albania.

At a time when Albanian youths are being violently driven away thus, meeting a tragic end, and with the Greek minority people enjoying all rights, in the European Parliament, Greek Euro-deputies demand "absolute cultural and religious autonomy" for the Greek minority in Albania and declare that the Albanian Government is closing the Greek schools of the minority and maltreating the minority people on a wide scale. They even protest against "massive removal" of the Moslem Albanian population to the regions of Gjirokastra, Delvina and Saranda, forgetting that it is the Albanians that are masters in the Albanian land and not the deputies of the Greek Parliament.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania attracts the attention of the Greek Government and the whole international public to the cruel violence against Albanian emigrants as well as to the Greek authorities' disinformation campaign regarding the treatment of the Greek minority in Albania in order to create an nonexistent problem and consider the problem of the Greek minority equally important with that of three million Albanian people residing in their own territories in former Yugoslavia.

We want to remind the Greek Government circles of the fact that neither history is easy to be distorted nor the present can be manipulated. The ultranationalist stances leave no room for the implementation of a good neighbouring policy with Albania, as the senior authorities of the new Greek government have recently declared.

Regarding the above said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania handed over a note of protest to the representative of the Greek Embassy in Tirana on November 1, 1993.

Aleksandrov on Failure To Control Cigarette Imports

AU3010183593 Sofia BTA in English 2124 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Sofia, October 29 (BTA)—"Of 17,000 tonnes of cigarettes consumed annually in Bulgaria, 15,000 tonnes are imported and only 3,000 tonnes are homemade. If normal pricing methods were in place, under operative law, this would have been absurd and we would have had a different picture," Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov said in parliament today, answering an MP's inquiry about shady import deals with cigarettes. "If this state of affairs continues, we shall kill national production ourselves," the minister stressed.

The Finance Ministry has been trying to take measures since last year. It has closed loopholes giving birth to unfair competition provided by foundations, sports organizations and cooperatives, amending legislation. Yet the results have fallen short of expectations. Things are assuming menacing proportions, according to the finance minister.

An ordinance issued by the finance minister in early 1993 says cigarettes may be imported only through certain border crossings stated in advance. Imports are taxed by a special commission to rule out the possibility of face-to-face deals between customs officers and importers. "Unfortunately, this ordinance is not observed," Minister Aleksandrov said. He reported cases of bribing customs and passport control officers and wide-spread declaring of false prices by importers. The Ministry of Finance has dozens of documents, according to which cigarettes including famous blends such as Marlboro and Kent are imported at one or two cents the pack. The finance minister discussed in detail other tricks to make quick profits. "Unfortunately, the Ministry of Trade registers deals paying no attention to the low cigarette prices," the minister said. The ministry was forced to introduce minimum prices to be considered in taxing, in force for two months now.

Dealers use free trade zones and re-export to evade taxes. Attempts by the Finance Ministry to get the better of profiteers have had no success so far. Mr. Aleksandrov put this down to officers' irresponsibility. He said that legal procedures have been initiated against customs officers, recalling his public promise to dismiss all customs officers caught to have cleared cigarettes at false prices.

Checking up a street cleaner back from cleaning the bridge Between Ruse and Giurgiu (Romania) across the Danube today, customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle in cigarettes. The dust collector of the truck owned by the city sanitation service contained Camel cigarettes worth 250,000 leva. According to preliminary information, the cigarettes were bought from a Transimpex shop near the bridge to be sold paying no excise duty. The Ruse customs submitted the case to the local prosecutors' office.

Finance Minister Aleksandrov said there is another channel for importing cigarettes, political parties and youth organizations, some of them front organizations. Again, it depends on the customs officers' integrity. The minister sees the solution in the excise system to be introduced soon. Government licensing of cigarette imports, and the limiting of the number of places selling cigarettes are other ways out. "There is big money changing hands in this business. Bribes and commissions are enormous and I doubt that we will be able to combat these phenomena successfully, in spite of all efforts, unless we undertake measures to hold officials legally responsible," Mr. Aleksandrov concluded.

Russia Continues To Be Leading Trade Partner

AU0111143193 Sofia BTA in English 1014 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Sofia, November 1 (BTA)—Bulgaria's foreign trade amounted to nearly 4,600 million dollars in the first seven months of 1993, according to the Ministry of Trade. Trade in 1993 is projected to exceed that in 1991 and 1992 .

Unlike the previous two years, however, the trade balance will be negative, according to forecasts. They are based on August data showing that imports late in that month outran exports by over 1,000 million dollars. The decline in foreign trade is put down to the Yugoembargo, which closed markets in Serbia and Montenegro to Bulgarian goods and impeded exports to Western and Central Europe, and to the breakdown of the COMECON.

Trade with Eastern Europe and the CIS declined sharply, to 1,545 million dollars in the seven-month period of this year, according to the Trade Ministry, quoted by STANDART NEWS. It amounted to respectively 3,209 million and 2,363 million dollars in 1991 and 1992. According to the Ministry of Trade, especially alarming is the fact that imports from the these countries outran Bulgarian exports threefold. This is due largely to the insolvency of Russia and Ukraine and also to the fact that the CIS is a major supplier of indispensable raw materials.

Bulgaria's major trade partners are the same. First comes Russia (accounting for 13.8 percent of all exports) followed by Germany (7.7 percent), according to OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK. At same time, exports to Macedonia, Greece and Turkey are growing and these countries are turning into Bulgaria's major partners in the Balkans. The surplus in trade with Balkan countries now amounts to over 380 million dollars, according to the Ministry of Trade.

Klaus Airs Views on Territorial Arrangement

AU2910174693 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Viktor Krejci; place and date not given: "What Kind of Territorial-Administrative Problems Will We Land On?"]

[Text] [Krejci] Mr. Prime Minister, some people are saying that you are trying to halt or, at least, slow down the reform of the territorial administrative arrangement. Why have you begun to speak more assertively recently—at least in public—regarding the territorial administrative arrangement? Could you also tell us what you think about the decision made by the Czech-Moravian Chamber of Trades Unions to establish a crisis committee and the reservations expressed by the trade unionists about the government wanting to withdraw from the tripartite?

[Klaus] These are good questions and it is right that I am asked them. The idea conveyed in the observation you made is completely wrong, and this provides a perfect example of the simplified and short-sighted way of looking at things, which—unfortunately—happens so often in our country. However, I will only say that, before we make an attempt at the long jump and push off from our imaginary spring board and fly for a moment through the air, we should know exactly where we will land. It seems to me that someone has started off terribly quickly, is on the point of pushing off, and is saying to himself that this leap will turn out somehow. This is an approach that I—with the responsibility that I feel and have—can in no way indulge in. Therefore, it seems to me that the old Czech proverb "look before you leap" is very apt and people should not forget it.

As far as your first question is concerned, the reason I have begun now to talk more assertively than previously about this issue is because there is a certain chronology in the things with which one deals: When a state is broken up, land, property, currency, and many other things are divided; so, one gets to other things more thoroughly and in greater detail at some other time. Of course, this does not mean that I began to look into this issue this October, because I have been making my views known for some months.

I would like to remind everyone—and I would be pleased if they were to take a look at the mass media—of the dominant topics, for example, six months or a year ago. First, we got all tangled up in Temelin, then in the Slovak investment book holders, and then we divided the currency and dealt with issues such as agricultural policy, rents, supplementary pensions, and deregulating wages; it would be worth bearing all of this in mind. However, if someone is turned unidimensionally toward just the territorial-administrative division issue and does not know what else is going on in the country, then in such a case—and only in such a case—it may seem to him that I have only recently started to talk more assertively and more categorically about this subject.

I would say the following regarding the trade unions and the tripartite:

It is certainly quite natural to have differing views on the contents and purpose of the tripartite; this is not per se a reason for forming a crisis committee. This crisis committee seems to me a little like an exaggeration, a completely unnecessary affair, that worries all of us unnecessarily. Although, on the other hand, I have a feeling that the citizens are not so bothered by it.

If the government puts forward its long-term program and repeats again and again what lies at the very heart of its thinking, this means that we are a parliamentary democracy based on political parties and on the fact that parliament is their arena. We are saying that citizens of various opinions may associate in political parties which are dominant political organizations and whose representatives in parliament then decide whether there should be wages regulation, whether membership in economic chambers should be obligatory, on the insurance law, the state budget, and so on. In principle, no other organizations can deal with these issues. We are very interested—and perhaps I emphasize this more than anyone else—in ensuring that a basic political and social consensus is maintained in the country; it is necessary to make use of all the institutions that can contribute to this. Therefore, I think that negotiations at the level of partners in the tripartite are useful and that, undoubtedly, they contribute to this. However, they must not replace other completely irreplaceable organs.

We have been thinking for a long time about a tripartite on two levels. First, in connection with the fact that, as the state sector disappears, we are considering gradually distancing the government from the negotiations between employers and employees. Second, in harmony with our overall philosophy—manifested in our economic, social, domestic, and foreign policy—we are opposed to institutions and in favor of consultations and negotiations. This means, for example, that we reject the Visegrad Four as an institution that would begin to live its own life, but—at the same time—we consider it essential to hold regular consultations with our partners in this group, both individually or in any grouping. From the same point of view, we would not want the tripartite to become an institution, but, of course, we would like it to be a place of consultation. We do not want to set each other's tasks, but we want to inform, understand, and instruct each other. This means that the issue involves more of a "restructuring" of the tripartite than a revolutionary change. Creating a crisis committee for this reason does not evince a proper understanding of what is actually going on.

Efforts To Harmonize With NATO Described

AU0211101593 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 26 Oct 93

[Article by Major General Pavel Jandacek, Deputy Commander of the Army General Staff of the Czech Republic: "The Czech Republic's Army and NATO"]

[Text] Recently, a large number of articles dealing with the Czech Republic's admission to NATO have appeared in the press. Unlike myself, most of us have the impression that our joining NATO is the most topical issue today. Leading NATO officials and many Western politicians, including those who have a positive attitude toward this matter, have led us to believe that the issue of our joining the Alliance—or specific deadlines for joining it—are not currently being considered.

We, the responsible officials in the Czech Army General Staff, realize that joining an alliance is a purely political decision that should be based on our level of technology and expertise. This is our task, the purpose of our work, and our objective.

Because of this, we are taking steps that will bring us closer to the armies of NATO countries and their structure.

We have had a large number of important meetings, debates, conferences and social events on various levels. This year, there were some 150 social events—our officers, entire staffs, and troops visited the facilities of the US Army, Bundeswehr, and of other armies deployed in Germany.

Since July 1993, the new commanding officers at the General Staff have been establishing contacts allowing us to become more familiar with NATO. The projects that have been started by General Pezl are continuing. We had a meeting with NATO officials, specifically with NATO General Secretary Manfred Woerner and chief officials of the Belgian and Luxembourg Armies. The Czech Army's General Staff commander headed a delegation that was involved in dealings with Bundeshwehr Inspector General in Germany. We had a number of meetings with NATO officials, which resulted in a plan for cooperation in 1994. Last but not least, we should mention the bilateral contacts with officials from the West European armies. These contacts have been established in our country, for instance, during the most recent visit by German Defense Minister Ruhe.

Our technological and professional compatibility with NATO armies is one of the key issues we are trying to solve. It has become evident that we have to correct our original and naive ideas about our strategic military doctrine, the structure and the training of the troops, the organization of combat activity, and arms systems. I acknowledge, however, that in the distant future we may attain compatibility with NATO in these spheres. However, I do not dare to guess when.

Tanks, airplanes, the army structure, or the logistics system, are not the main criteria of compatibility. The main criterion is harmonization, the extent of which should permit us to conduct efficient military activity in real time and space, and in harmony with common objectives.

In this context, we have to take other steps. Our steps must reflect the ever changing geopolitical situation, the economic possibilities of our country, and the expectations of our democratic society.

During UN peacekeeping actions, we have acquired our first experience and knowledge. We are carefully evaluating this knowledge and we will use it to establish the Rapid Deployment Units. These units will become a model for our Army in 2005.

First, we are stressing the language and professional training of our people. We want to remove language barriers, in particular, which are a big obstacle in our mutual relations. A total of 53 officers and civilians have completed, and eight are attending language courses. We have sent more than 160 officers to NATO military schools and courses in the United States, Canada, France, Britain, Germany, and Holland. Of the 160, 127 completed their training in mid-October this year. The training includes educational programs by domestic and foreign teams, particularly from the United States.

The communications system is another important area of harmonization. The well-known slogan—"there is no command without communication"—fully applies here. The latest-generation communications systems that we want to introduce are very expensive, but they are much needed for the harmonization of our joint military activity. We are examining offers from several companies, including top European manufacturers.

The arms systems are the third area of harmonization between the Czech Army and NATO. We will be able to introduce systems identical to those of NATO—that is, completely new systems—and to secure their operation after 1995. Today, we consider it to be a success if we add modern electronic equipment—the standard of which is similar to that of NATO—to a tank or aircraft.

The last area is the integration of our command with that of NATO. This involves a wide range of preparations for our activity in NATO structures, and for establishing joint command points and troops. Results have been meager so far. On the higher level of the staff, we have succeeded in having unified the method of planning, control, and command. Joint exercises are also being prepared. In the fall, there will be a joint exercise of the Bundeswehr and our air force emergency services. Joint exercises of the staffs are also under consideration.

The road of the Czech Army to NATO will be long and difficult. There are, however, clear contours and goals. We have something to build upon. The Alliance is interested in cooperating with our Army and acknowledges our Army's new concept.

Investigation of Theft of Semtex Explosives Continues

LD0211112993 Prague CTK in English 1042 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 2 (CTK)—The investigation of the October theft of some two tonnes of the explosive

material semtex has been successful so far, and a portion of the stolen goods has been found, police spokesman Jaroslav Pilat told CTK.

Pilat said that at this point in the investigation he could not provide any details, but that he was satisfied with how it was going.

The theft of 900 kilograms of the plastic explosive was discovered by the owner of the Zlyna firm near Zilina, central Slovakia, on October 21. The semtex had been kept in a storage facility rented from the local quarry. The thieves destroyed the alarm system and carried the goods in 50-kilogram boxes to a gate about 100 metres from the storeroom. From there they used a small truck or several cars to transport the explosives.

The most recent inspection of the area had taken place October 17, and the storeroom had been checked October 1.

Semtex, which was used in the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, is highly explosive and difficult to detect. According to the daily "SME," an amount the size of a box of cigarettes is enough to blow up an airplane, while 10 kilogrames will destroy a 12 by 15 metre brick building. One kilogram of semtex costs between 1,500 and 2,000 DM [German marks] on the black market, but terrorists reportedly pay up to 6,000 DM per kilogram.

Meciar Says Coalition Talks 'Completely Fruitless'

LD3110172993 Prague CTK in English 1723 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 31 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar told journalists this afternoon that coalition talks between his ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) had been completely fruitless.

We are going nowhere, he said when asked whether he would submit the composition of the new coalition government to President Michal Kovac Monday as planned. Journalists questioned Meciar briefly just before his (late) arrival for a meeting with the general secretary of the World Jewish Congress, Israel Singer.

DS, KDS Leaders Comment on Coalition

LD0111143893 Prague CTK in English 1231 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 1 (CTK)—Now the coalition between the ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) has been concluded, the Democratic Left Party (SDL) will have to decide between two options, Democratic Party (DS) Chairman Anton Duris said.

He was speaking at today's press conference held jointly with the Party of Conservative Democrats (KDS).

The SDL will have to decide between a silent coalition, or clear partnership in the opposition, Duris said, adding that he believes the SDL is now weighing both alternatives and will soon take a decision.

Commenting on his party's merger with the DS, KDS Chairman Pavol Hagyari said there was an urgent need to form a strong right-wing party because early parliamentary elections will certainly take place next year.

The new party will be called the KDS-DS as the definitive name will only be announced in the run-up to next year's local elections, Hagyari said, adding that talks are under way between his party and the Party of Slovak Tradespeople and Entrepreneurs.

The KDS-DS relies on close cooperation with the Christian Democratic Movement considered by both the KDS and DS to be the only right-orientated party in parliament, Hagyari said.

Cooperation with the Alliance of Slovak Democrats is also possible, Hagyari concluded.

Weiss Says SDL To Act as Opposition Party

AU2910111593 Prague CTK in English 1634 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 26 (CTK)— Democratic Left Party (SDL) Chairman Petr Weiss believes that the Slovak National Party (SNS), which has formed a government coalition with the ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), will hardly help to improve the government's competence.

Weiss told journalists today that the HZDS had refused to settle the current internal political crisis in Slovakia by means of early parliamentary elections and that political agreements between the SDL and the HZDS had thus lost their meaning.

The SNS has jumped onto a moving train and has thus assumed part of the responsibility for the government's policies thus far, Weiss said. He pointed out that the SNS's joining the government coalition had been thus far marked merely by talks about filling ministerial offices, but the public had known nothing about the badly needed quality changes in the government's policies.

Under such conditions the SDL refuses to speculate on the hundred days which are to be given to the remade government to get started or about entering the government coalition, Weiss said. The government coalition needs a strong opposition and an alternative to its policies. In this the SDL sees its major role, he said, adding that his party continued to consider its relations with the Slovak Social Democratic Party (SDSS) and the Farmers' Movement and the preparations for municipal and parliamentary elections to be priorities.

SDL Deputy Chairman Dusan Dorotin said that a referendum on early elections was an illusion, adding that the shortening of the election term would hardly be achieved in this way.

Asked whether the SDL will support the establishment of a parliamentary committee for control over privatization, Weiss said that the distribution of forces in parliament had changed with the creation of the coalition and that if the HZDS and SNS were not interested in setting up such a body, they would simply outvote it.

Kovac Greets Havel on Czech National Day

AU0211100293 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 2

[Letter from President Michal Kovac to Czech President Vaclav Havel; date not given]

[Text] Mr. President:

On the occasion of the national holiday of the Czech Republic, please accept my personal congratulations and congratulations from the citizens of the Slovak Republic.

The days 28 October and 30 October 1918 are important milestones in the modern history of the Slovak nation. We cannot question the fact that it was a correct historical decision of the Czech and the Slovak nations to establish the Czechoslovak state, a decision which had the support of T.G. Masaryk and M.R. Stefanik. At that time, the Slovak nation did not have a better, or a more promising alternative. The period between the two world

wars testifies to this. With the help of the Czech nation, Slovaks have built a number of social and cultural institutions that are indispensable for the existence of a modern nation. For the first time, Slovakia has established itself as a real political and administrative entity, which is very important, and Slovaks have been allowed to actively participate in a functional parliamentary democracy. In this connection, we appreciate the work of tens of thousands of Czechs who have contributed to the development in many spheres of life in our country, particularly in the first two decades of the existence of the common state. The positive contribution of the Czechoslovak Republic to Slovakia has been adversely affected by the questionable idea of Czechoslovakism. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the period between the wars had its positive and valuable aspects.

After the tragic experience of World War II, the totalitarian regime, and the occupation, the new Czechoslovakia was expected to become a common state of two equal nations.

This was the objective of the democratic forces in exile and in Slovakia during the war. The reestablishment of the common state was also the main goal of the Slovak National Uprising in 1944. However, historical and political reversals in the postwar state—reversals which were the result of the then worldwide policy, errors, and misunderstandings ensuing from the coexistence of two unequal partners—resulted in a peaceful and internationally recognized division of Czechoslovakia into two independent nations.

I am convinced that the way the state was divided forms a good basis for successful neighborly cooperation and mutual openness. This conviction of mine has even been strengthened by the fact that the initial bonds have been established between our countries, of which the family bonds and friendship relations are the most important. Historical traditions and the closeness of our languages create prerequisites for the establishment of relations that will enrich both countries, and are a basis for modern European cooperation.

Dear Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge your valuable contribution to the courteous and mutually beneficial Slovak-Czech relations. I believe that the people of our countries have shown their high cultural level and sense of responsibility. We, the presidents, should come up with positive stimuli in our dialogue in order to promote our beneficial cooperation.

Cordially, Michal Kovac, president of the Slovak Republic.

Defense Minister Discusses NATO Membership Bid

LD3110171193 Prague CTK in English 1647 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 29 (CTK)—Slovak Defence Minister Imrich Andrejcak said on the Slovak television programme Kroky today he did not believe that a discussion of membership for Slovakia or the other Visegrad countries would be on the table at NATO's January summit meeting.

Before it is possible to discuss any kind of deadline, it is necessary for all parties to discuss and clarify their concepts of associate membership, he said.

The so-called Visegrad Four is comprised of Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all of whom have expressed a desire to join the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

Andrejcak bemoaned the fact that among the Visegrad states there is no unified belief that close cooperation among them will get them NATO membership faster than if they each try to go the path alone. He did not exclude the possibility that some Central European countries would have intensive contacts with the West and thus be acceptable earlier, but said Slovakia need have no fear of faring worse than the others.

Slovak President Michal Kovac is scheduled to fly to NATO Headquarters in Brussels Tuesday [2 November], but he is going there in order to explain a number of things rather than to defend anything, Andrejcak said, above all to explain what measures Slovakia feels are necessary for joining the country to Europe's security structures. We are not in a situation where we need to defend anything, he said, adding that most of the fears about whether Slovakia truly belongs to Europe are being voiced at home, not abroad.

On Russia's recent reservations about NATO member for its Central European neighbours, Andrejcak said that the Western powers respected Russia and that small nations had freedom of movement only within the confines established by the two main nuclear powers: Russia and the United States.

Other foreign policy experts on Kroky praised Slovakia's approach to NATO. One said that Slovak citizens had rejected the theatrical approach of the former Czechoslovak Federation toward the West, adding that the country's present foreign policy uses fewer strong words and is serious.

Prosecutor Accuses Meciar of Abusing Authority

AU2910175293 Prague CTK in English 1340 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 27 (CTK)—Premier Vladimir Meciar has allegedly informed representatives of the Slovak Prosecutors' Association that if the current leadership of the Chief Prosecutor's Office did not resign, the government would not approve higher salaries for the prosecutors.

The allegation came in a letter by Deputy Prosecutor General Ludovit Krupa which was published in today's SLOVENSKY DENNIK.

The above statement by Meciar is, in our opinion, at variance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the letter states. Krupa points out in it that only the president may dismiss the prosecutor general, and then only if parliament votes to recommend it. The premier can ask parliament to consider taking a vote.

The question of establishing remuneration for prosecutors at the same level as for judges in the shortest possible time is most pressing for the continued regular operation and stability of the Prosecutor's Office, but it cannot be resolved at the cost of violating the Slovak Constitution, Krupa wrote in his letter.

Allegations have surfaced that the coalition agreement just signed between the ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) provides for an HZDS member to take over the position of Slovak prosecutor general and an SNS member to become chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Government Approves Founding of State Arms Firm

AU0111142893 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 27 Oct 93 p 5

[Unattributed report under the "Yesterday in the Government" rubric: "Trade With Arms"]

[Text] The Slovak Ministry of Economy has proposed that a shareholding company for trade in arms be founded with the aim of selling surplus weapons in the Army of the Slovak Republic and arms manufacturing enterprises and to speed up the return on funds that have been invested in arms production. The Slovak Government approved this proposal yesterday.

The shareholding company is being established according to provisions of Article 154 of the Trade Code, and the subsequent articles. The company will have its seat in Bratislava.

It will be established for an indefinite period of time; the date of its founding will be 1 November 1993 at the latest.

Its projected capital stock is 10 million korunas [Sk]. The Slovak Economy Ministry's investment will secure the ownership of 100 percent of the company's shares, which will guarantee the state's complete representation in the shareholding company.

In view of the fact that the budget of the Slovak Ministry of Economy did not provide for financial resources to cover the aforementioned investment, the resources will be appropriated from the Slovak Government's contingency reserves.

The state will be the shareholder in the company through the medium of state-owned arms manufacturing organizations, state-owned repair plants, research and development organizations, and, possibly, other entities interested in participation in the shareholding company's activities.

The proposed capital stock of Sk10 million is the minimum yet absolutely essential amount to set the shareholding company's commercial activity in motion.

The expeditious founding of such a trade organization is urgent, in particular, in view of the need to sell without delay the surplus weaponry and equipment of the Army of the Slovak Republic. In the event of noncompliance with the set deadline (which is drawing dangerously close), the surplus weaponry would have to be destroyed at considerable extra cost.

The small-scale transactions sporadically carried out to date, most of which involved the sale of ammunition, spare parts, and hand guns, have been realized almost exclusively through private firms and trade organizations, which retained the profit.

Apart from taking a substantial share in profits from the sale of the aforementioned goods, the shareholding company of this type will influence the development of special production and the coordination of activities, from research and development up to production.

[Prague CTK in English at 2132 GMT on 26 October carries the following report on the above decision: "The Slovak Government today approved a proposal for the founding of a joint-stock company for trading arms, Government Spokesman Ondrej Hanko told journalists after the government session. Although the original bill stipulated that the state should control 67 percent of the shares, it was agreed today that there would be 100 percent state participation. The shares will be owned by the Ministries of Economy, Finance, the Interior, Defense, and Transport and Communications."]

Communique on Health of Prime Minister Antall

LD0111171893 Budapest MTI in English 1611 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, November 1 (MTI)—On behalf of doctors treating Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall at Cologne University Clinic since October 6, Prof. P. Dias Wickramanayake issued the following communique on Monday:

"An autological parent cell transplant was carried out on Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on October 14. The subsequent treatment is going according to schedule. The prime minister is in good physical and mental condition, and his leukocyte count is satisfactory.

"If there are no unforeseen developments, the patient will be released from our institute at the end of the week, or early next week. Naturally, for a while following his return home, he will still need rest and medical supervision," runs the communique.

Goncz Asks Prime Minister To Resolve 'Media War'

AU0211094793 Paris AFP in English 0017 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, Nov 1 (AFP)—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz called Monday on Prime Minister Jozsef Antall to step in to resolve a bitter media war that flared after the government expropriated public broacasting services months before general elections.

Goncz charged that the dispute, sparked last week by the removal of journalists and programmes critical of the government, was "seriously threatening" Hungary's democracy.

He called on Antall, currently being treated for lymphatic gland cancer in Cologne, Germany, to take action to "solve the personal problems of Hungarian Television and Radio," whose government-appointed heads replaced opposition journalists with colleagues close to the current administration.

The move effectively scrapped most broadcasts critical of the government.

Sources close to the president said the plea aimed to pressure Antall into either removing the government-appointed heads or calling the country's six parliamentary parties for coordiation talks to select new candidates for the posts.

In a letter last Monday, Goncz had warned Antall that the changes would deprive voters of the chance to form objective opinions, meaning "a precondition for the next free elections" would be crushed.

The elections are scheduled for the spring.

Last week the head of Hungarian Radio, Laszlo Csucs, appointed a pro-government chief close to the extreme right movement of ultra-nationalist writer Istvan Csurka, to supervise news programmes.

The head of Hungarian Television, Gabor Nahlik, removed the editors of an alternative news programme and—on various pretexts—started judicial proceedings against them.

The clampdown prompted a protest rally by more than 10,000 radio journalists and supporters outside Budapest television headquarters, where one speaker warned that ideological hiring and firing was tantamount to "an election fraud months before the elections."

Two years ago Antall's centre-right coalition used legislation dating back to the communist era to remove the presidents of both broadcasting bodies, who had been appointed on the consensus of all six parliamentary parties.

The 1974 decree authorises the government to exercise control over the national media.

Meanwhile Antall's office said the premier could be released from the Uniklinik in Cologne at the weekend or early next week.

"The Prime Minister is in a very good condition both physically and mentally," his office said, quoting medical team member Dias Wickramanayake.

Interior Minister on Radio, Television Dispute

LD3010192193 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister Peter Boross, who is filling in for the prime minister, has been speaking in Kaposvar about the situation that has evolved in and around the electronic media.

According to Peter Boross, the opposition parties in the media war are following on from those interest groups which came into existence at radio and television back in the era of Aczel [secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party in charge of cultural affairs, under Janos Kadar], groups which do not tolerate any kind of managerial interference in their operations. These groups are very far removed from the demands of objective information, and they show astounding aggressiveness immediately their interests s.[illegible]er any injury, Peter Boross stated at a ceremony in Kaposvar.

The trouble at television and radio began, he continued, when some signatures were missing which according to constitutional requirements should not have been missing. The other reason for what has happened is the fact that the deputies of the Alliance of Free Democrats impeded the enactment of the bill relating to the media. Everything that happens over and above that is artificial outrage and an exploitation of the situation for political objectives. However, these things will not disturb our

peace and tranquillity, Boross said in the statement he gave to the Kaposvar correspondent of Hungarian radio.

Party Official Comments on U.S. Visit

LD0111141193 Budapest MTI in English 1146 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, November 1 (MTI)—Recent talks in Washington by Imre Konya, head of the Hungarian Democratic Forum's parliamentary group, focussed on Hungary's security and its soonest possible joining of NATO.

Konya, who spent nine days in the United States at the invitation of Hungarian organizations, returned here Sunday night.

In an interview with MTI, Konya said he had expressed Hungary's agreement with the U.S. endeavour to create security for the former Soviet Union and its one-time sphere of influence simultaneously.

Hungary considered it important that countries which, for historical and geographical reasons, had made greater advances in catching up with the West be admitted to NATO, he said in Washington.

From his talks in Washington he believed that U.S. policy supported Hungary's aspirations and saw the differences between countries in the region.

All this was shown by the fact that President Clinton, who would attend the NATO summit in Brussels in January, would also meet the heads of state and government of the Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Konya said.

Asked about the situation in the Hungarian media, Konya stressed that vice-presidents Gabor Nahlik of Hungarian Television and Laszlo Csucs of Hungarian Radio had so far guaranteed the conditions for unbiased and balanced coverage.

He said it was regrettable that some opposition circles and civil organizations standing close to the opposition repeatedly used the internal affairs of the two media for political campaigning.

"The hysteria that accompanies the suspension of some leaders of Esti Egyenleg (Evening Balance), a news programme of Hungarian Television, is inexplicable, as it is well-known that the decision was the consequence of an unbiased and objective examination and that the government had no right to intervene in decisions of the vice-presidents," Konya said.

He also said it was inexplicable that certain political circles wanted to force the government to intervene, as a political supervisor, in the internal affairs of the independent Hungarian Radio and Hungarian Television, while not long ago it was they who organized a campaign against what they termed the government's efforts to put the media under its control.

Chairman Explains Central Bank's Actions

AU2910172293 Budapest MTI in English 1413 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Budapest, 28 October (MTI-ECONEWS)—National Bank of Hungary (MNB) President Akos Peter Bod told Parliament's Finance Committee on Wednesday [27 October] that a rise in interest rates took place before the MNB, in September, increased the base rate, with the bank only acting to adjust the rate to economic reality.

Bod was before the committee to report on MNB activities and monetary trends last year. He said when the Central Bank Council decided to raise the base rate by three percentage points a month ago, the annual inflation rate was 20-22 percent while treasury bill interest rates were just 12-14 percent.

Bod said a considerable amount of state securities at the time remained unsold and private forint savings were being converted into foreign currency deposits.

When interest rates began to increase the MNB began to buy unsold state securities, to the tune of 39 billion forints. By law, the MNB can buy no more than 54 billion forints worth in a year. As a result, the central bank could not do anything about rising interest rates but adjust the base rate to economic reality, Bod said.

He said Hungarian companies had total foreign exchange debts of $2 billion. This year alone Hungarian companies borrowed foreign exchange worth 100 billion forints.

Adviser Previews Pawlak Policy Statement

PM0111153193 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 25 Oct 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Bogdan Lukasiewicz, adviser to Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, by correspondent Henryk Sroczynski; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sroczynski] You head the team of experts responsible for the drafting of the premier's policy statement [expose]. Who belongs to your work team?

[Lukasiewicz] Mainly people who took part in the coalition talks.

[Sroczynski] What sort of documen. will the premier's policy statement be?

[Lukasiewicz] Traditionally, it is the premier's statement of his program, delivered before parliament. The policy statement should primarily map out the main directions of economic policy and also identify relevant danger areas. It should present the "takeover balance," that is, the condition of the economy as found by the incoming government team, considered in conjunction with the issues discussed in the report submitted by the outgoing government. Of course, in the introduction to his policy statement the premier will justify the creation of the government coalition in its present composition; then he will give broad treatment to a discussion of the foreign and internal policy which the government intends to carry out. Overall, the delivery of the complete text of the policy statement should last about one hour.

[Sroczynski] When will the policy statement document be ready?

[Lukasiewicz] We do not need to hurry: the Small Constitution gives us plenty of time. In addition, the premier wants to match his policy statement as closely as possible to the requirements of the present time. After consultation with the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD], we will also take into account the opinions of the new ministers, who by then will have assumed their positions in government (in other words, they will have gained access to the documents in their respective sectors which will enable them to make new comments on matters relevant to the policy statement). The final draft of the policy statement should be ready by the middle of next week.

[Sroczynski] Will the premier's policy proposals include some new issues in addition to those with which we are already familiar?

[Lukasiewicz] It is certainly to be expected that the premier will want to propose some new concepts as he introduces his policy statement in the Sejm forum. He will want to suggest new ways of looking at certain matters. One of such elements could be a new approach to the privatization question. All in all, I must stress that the premier will attempt to offer to the Sejm and the public the most lucid and intelligible presentation of the coalition's principal aims as well as the fundamental points of its program. For my part, let me tell you that, acting in our role as negotiators, we discussed all these points thoroughly and wrote down the text of all our agreements in the specialized vocabulary used in expert talks. All this must now be translated, as it were, into a different, intelligible language.

[Sroczynski] When and how will you express your position on the report on the condition of the state which was prepared by Ms Suchocka's government?

[Lukasiewicz] We will issue our opinion of that document in a written statement. Our task group has already prepared an initial assessment of the report, in the form of a collective opinion. At present, individual experts are carrying out their analyses in different subject sections. We will then collate our findings and formulate our joint opinion. This will probably be done by 25 October. Then the results will be circulated to Sejm deputies and senators in the form of a special report paper. Generally speaking, the report presented by Ms. Suchocka's government is a loose collection of materials prepared separately by individual ministries. There is no evidence of a guiding principle in that document, which is anything but cohesive. It fails to mention data which throws an unfavorable light on the government's work and it is very clearly selective in presenting data for comparison from more successful periods. For example, the data quoted for comparison are sometimes taken from statistical reports for 1988 and 1989, and sometimes from reports for 1990 or 1991. That is obvious statistical manipulation. However, there are also elements in the report which deserve very careful attention.

[Sroczynski] What procedure do you expect to be followed in the government-forming operations?

[Lukasiewicz] [passage omitted] The chairman of the Council of Ministers should present the Sejm with the Council of Minister's work program, accompanied by a request for a parliamentary vote of confidence, no later than 14 days from the date of his appointment by the president. In other words, Waldemar Pawlak will present his policy statement and the request for a vote of confidence at the next Sejm session following the one scheduled for this week.

[Sroczynski] Do you, as a close working associate of Waldemar Pawlak's, expect to be given a government appointment?

[Lukasiewicz] I was asked this question on several occasions already, and I gave the same reply each time. Let me reiterate: Following discussion with Waldemar Pawlak, I agreed to be at the government's disposal in extraordinary situations. In this sense, I occupy, as it were, a backstage position.

Economic Cooperation Minister Interviewed

WS0211123093 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Lech Podkanski, minister of foreign economic cooperation, by Danuta Walewska; place and date not given: "I Prefer Polish Odra to Wrangler"]

[Text] [Walewska] What are you more concerned about—the 2 billion [not further specified] in foreign trade, or the fact that our turnover in trade with the East constitutes less than 10 percent of our total turnover in foreign trade?

[Podkanski] Both things are equally disconcerting. What is even more disconcerting is the fact that this trend is not likely to change by year's end, so the final balance sheet may be even more disadvantageous.

I think that we cannot accept such a low level of trade with the post-socialist countries. The Polish economy must seek opportunities in the East. It is necessary to prepare a government program as well as all the instruments that would ensure an active economic policy. I am not thinking only about our trade representatives, a stable custom-duty policy, exchange rate and tax policy, but also measures that would protect Polish companies from noncommercial risks; in other words, we should create fiscal and other instruments to promote exports.

[Walewska] Do we not know that market?

[Podkanski] We knew the Eastern market when there were government protocols, guarantees, and agreements on cooperation and trade. Now that inflation in the East is very high, there is a real danger that a contract we want to sign today may turn out to be unprofitable in four days time. Therefore, we must support attempts to introduce our commodities to Eastern markets. I would be glad if, for example, an apple with the inscription "Now Poland" held a certain position in that market, just as the company that exports it.

[Walewska] Do you not think that those markets would prefer to buy Western goods instead of Polish, which were easy to sell some time ago?

[Podkanski] I have suffered this illness myself and bought my first Wrangler jeans in a Pewex shop [shops that sold Western goods for hard currency during communist rule] for $7. Then I bought another pair of Wranglers; since then, I have always preferred Polish-made Odra jeans. Such a trend is the result of certain economic conditions, as well as advertising, which requires a lot of money. I would like the members of this government to believe that not all trade operations conducted on behalf of the Republic of Poland must be profitable at the very beginning; it is an investment that will pay dividends in the future. Also, this is not a vision of a few months, but years. An infrastructure of government agreements has been prepared which should also bear fruit.

[Walewska] What is your attitude toward protectionism and protective measures for the Polish market. This was often mentioned during the election campaign. Also, many promises were made.

[Podkanski] I will always support the idea of effective state protectionism. Now, if we are talking about custom duties and other methods of protecting the Polish market, I think that civilizing Polish statistics and computerizing the custom offices should be a priority. Today we have pieces of information from various sources; they always differ from one another. I am particularly interested in an analysis of the imports of consumer goods, the volume of imported and exported goods. Until I have at least current information, my activities are not going to yield much.

[Walewska] That means that signals from Polish manufacturers are enough for you to try to implement additional protective measures for the market?

[Podkanski] They are important and I must take them into consideration. Changes in the level of custom duties are possible and also, in certain social situations, justified. I want to introduce these changes and it is a matter of a decision by the Council of Ministers.

[Walewska] Poland is, however, bound by various economic agreements—European Free Trade Association, Central European Free Trade Association, as well as the temporary trade agreement we have signed with the EEC. I understand that new methods of protection for the Polish market would have to be discussed with those partners.

[Podkanski] That is true. However, I must say clearly that Poland, as one of very few countries in Central Europe, has not been very efficient in defending the interests of its domestic manufacturers and has not employed the instruments that were envisioned in the agreements that you have just mentioned—compensation fees, limitations, licenses, anti-dumping laws. There are methods with which a country can protect its own market. We are trying to introduce amendments concerning changes in the area of protecting our market. This goes for existing agreements, as well as for agreements that have yet to be signed.

[Walewska] Have I understood you correctly? You would like to renegotiate the European Treaty?

[Podkanski] No, I would not. It has been ratified and I do not think it has to be renegotiated. What I am thinking about are talks on renegotiating agreements that are the result of the decisions of the Council of Ministers, which terminate at the end of this year. They are secondary documents to the treaty.

[Walewska] If Prime Minister Pawlak gave you a substantial sum of money, for what would you earmark it—aid for exporters or protection of our market from competitive imports?

[Podkanski] I would earmark 70 percent of this sum to aid exporters, and the remainder would go to those who stand a good chance of becoming exporters themselves.

[Walewska] What is your attitude toward privatization in foreign trade?

[Podkanski] All units of foreign trade should be privatized. However, I will oppose accelerating the process of privatization or ownership transformations at any cost. My idea boils down to this: Let us privatize what today is in a very difficult financial condition and what does not have any chance of overcoming that fact. That is, we should start with those companies that are the weakest, economically. We should, however, approach very slowly those enterprises that are in a good financial situation.

[Walewska] However, those foreign trade enterprises which are now on the stock exchange were good before being privatized and now they are even better...

[Podkanski] I am following this with admiration and I can see that they are developing very dynamically. However, we will not privatize all enterprises in this manner. We should select those companies that stand a good chance of developing and they will be privatized. However, I believe that each company needs an individual approach when it comes to privatization.

Statistics Show Economic Growth, Rising Unemployment

LD2910213293 Warsaw PAP in English 2008 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 29—The growth of industrial production (by 6.9 pct) and of the gross domestic product (by 4 pct) are among the most encouraging data on the economic performance during the three quarters of 1993, the Central Statistical Office (GUS) reported on Friday [29 October].

"These figures point to the continuing expansion," GUS Vice-President Roman Sawinski commented Friday.

He added that the most worrisome trends were those of falling real incomes and the persistent high unemployment.

The rate of joblessness stood at 15.4 pct in September, but there were provinces where the index reached over 27 pct. More than a half of all the unemployed lost the right to unemployment benefits, while over 45 pct remained jobless longer than for a year.

Despite growing industrial production, real incomes of worker families and those living on social money decreased by 1.6 pct on the average, compared to a year ago.

GUS President Jozef Okonski said that very few social groups recorded higher real incomes than last year's.

Spiroiu on Start of Armed Forces Restructuring

AU3110211093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Beginning tomorrow the Ministry of National Defense is to start implementing its new structures. Here is what Romanian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Niculae Spiroiu told our reporter, Nicu Popescu, in connection with that issue:

[Begin Spiroiu recording] It is true that 1 November is the date that, according to the orders from the minister of national defense, we will proceed to implement the new structures. People have had the false impression that all new structures will be functional as of 1 November. Unfortunately, we are not prepared to do that. The first of the month is merely the date on which we are to begin that action.

In order to inform your listeners correctly, I have to say that this process depends on a number of things. First, it depends on the fact that we can begin the implementation of the new structures solely in cases that are in concordance with stipulations of current laws. By that I mean the bill on the organization of the national defense ministry, a law that dates to before the time Romania's new constitution was promulgated, and the new defense bill, offering a framework for all our activity, which has already been passed by Romania's Senate and is currently being examined by the Chamber of Deputies. I already had two meetings with the members of the defense commission of that chamber, and I hope that the parliament will finally pass that bill. To sum it up, if we want to fully implement the new structures, they will have to amend the bill on the organization of defense—so that it would correspond to the new constitution and the new defense bill—and they will have to pass the new defense bill itself.

It should be well understood that the process will not begin and end tomorrow. It only begins tomorrow. Beginning 1 November we will proceed to implement those structures, which, I repeat, do not contravene the current laws of the country.

Another important day will be 1 December, when we are planning to begin the implementation of the new organization of the chiefs of staff of the various categories of armed forces. That plan also depends, in a way, on whether the defense bill is passed before that date and whether the bill on the organization of the Armed Forces is amended.

However, it is true that 1 November is still a very important date, because that is when the whole restructuring process is to begin.

A second restrictive element, if I may call it that—besides the already mentioned law-making aspect, which we will certainly solve with the help of the parliament, the presidency, and the government—refers to our limited financial possibilities, which so far have negatively influenced the process. For instance, to illustrate our purely administrative problems, until now we have not managed to conclude the building activity at the new ministry headquarters.

I assess that the time needed for the implementation of the new structures could be as long as two, three, or even four months. The only certain dates are 1 November, when we begin the restructuring of our central bodies, and 1 December, when we begin implementing it at the chief-of-staff level of various categories of the Armed Forces. Obviously, the time that will pass until the process of restructuring is also implemented at the level of the operative units of our armed forces—our units and subunits—will be even longer. That is due especially to our financial problems. For instance, the fact that we will have to find living quarters for the officers who will have to move to work in other areas is also causing us headaches.

As a matter of fact, and I hope that public opinion has already got accustomed to this, we will soon hold a news conference in which we will detail the national Defense Ministry's plans. [end Spiroiu recording]

Deputies Pass Bill on Private Universities

AU0111153093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0911 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/11/1993—During further debates on the Education Act, the Chamber of Deputies voted on the article about the accreditation of private higher education institutions.

The fall of the communist regime in December 1989 permitted the establishment as early as January 1989 of private firms in various fields of activity, education included. In the absence of adequate legislation, the first private universities founded soon after the revolution were set up as companies offering services. Many of them started almost from scratch, with precarious material endowment and a low percentage of certified academic staff. The rush of many youths to these private educational establishments made it obvious for the authorities that a large number of graduates were to flood the labor market as holders of unacknowledged degree papers. This made it imperative to create the necessary legal background for their chartering by a specialized board and for the ending of those universities' status as economic units.

The special board will be a appointed by the Ministry of Education as the National Council of Academic Evaluation and Accreditation in compliance with the Education Act, which also stipulates that the institutes or departments (faculties) that get only a temporary license, but are not accredited, will forfeit the right of enrolling first year students, but will be authorized to continue until previous batches complete their studies.

Delegation Briefs Press on Latin America Visit

AU0111185193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1638 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/11/1993—The members of the Romanian parliamentary delegation that returned on Saturday [30 October] night from a political tour of South America—Brazil, Bolivia, and Venezuela—gave a news conference on November 1. They said that during talks conducted with the presidents of the three states, the foreign ministers, and parliament presidents of the visited countries, they analyzed possibilities to speed up the development of the bilateral relations both on a parliamentary plane and in other fields as well. A document of friendship and cooperation was even signed between Bolivia and Romania, at the request of the president of the Bolivian Parliament's Foreign Relations Commission. The delegation also had meetings with businessmen, associations, and members of the Romanian diaspora. The latter expressed their readiness to participate in the efforts to relaunch the Romanian economy and their wish to establish preferential economic relations with Romania. At the same time, some Romanians in the diaspora showed interest in regaining assets that once had belonged to them: workshops, houses, and factories. The Romanian parliamentarians explained to them the legislative aspects of the matter.

The members of the delegation also told the news conference the possibility existed to achieve in future a transfer of skilled personnel from Romania to Bolivia and Venezuela, which was discussed during the visit to the two countries.

Yeltsin: Moscow Cannot Influence Tiraspol Trial

AU0111185093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1718 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/11/1993—The Russian Federation's ambassador in Bucharest, Yevgenniy Dimitreyevich Ostrovenko, delivered to President Ion Iliescu a message of reply to his 13 October 1993 telegram, on behalf of President Boris Yeltsin, in connection with the six patriots that are victims of the Tiraspol mock trial.

President Yeltsin says in the message that "it is about a trial with which Russia has nothing to do, just like it has no connection with the defendants in this trial. They are citizens of the Republic of Moldova and their destiny cannot be decided in Moscow," President Yeltsin adds.

"However, starting from humanitarian reasons, this problem was discussed during the meetings between the presidents of Russia and the Republic of Moldova. As it is known, both presidents repeatedly urged the Tiraspol authorities to show mercy toward those people and defer the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Moldova.

"Just like so far, we remain the partisans of settlement of the Tiraspol trial issue based on legality and humanism," President Yeltsin concludes.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 2 November

WA0211164693

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Army Chief of General Staff Halilovic placed under house arrest ... Serbs to supply electricity to western Bosnian Muslim enclave ... Belgrade radio reports clashes among Muslims in Travnik.

POLITICAL

HALILOVIC UNDER HOUSE ARREST: AFP, citing a senior Bosnian Government official, reports Bosnian Army Chief of General Staff Halilovic has been "placed under house arrest" for "covering up war crimes" in Mostar and Jablanica. Halilovic had been replaced as commander of the Bosnian Army in June. (AU0111155393)

SERBS TO SUPPLY MUSLIMS WITH ELECTRICITY (TANJUG): Bosnian Serbs say they have reached agreement with rebel Muslim enclave in western Bosnia to supply electricity and help revitalize the area's economy. (LD0211125793)

MILITARY

CLASHES AMONG MUSLIMS IN TRAVNIK: Belgrade Radio cites "local Muslim radio" saying "deadly clashes" among Muslims occuring in Travnik. (AU0111154893)

Army Chief Halilovic Placed Under House Arrest

AU0111155393 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 1 (AFP)—The chief of the Bosnian Army's General Staff, Sefer Halilovic, has been placed under house arrest, charged with covering up war crimes, a senior government official said Monday [1 November].

The move against Halilovic follows the arrest last week of two local commanders in Sarajevo and the smashing of a network of criminal activities.

The official, who would not be identified, said Halilovic was accused of concealing war crimes, in particular in the Mostar and Jablanica areas.

"Haris Silajdzic's new government will fight all crimes and rights abuses and also probe war crimes," the official said.

The official's statement was confirmed by high-ranking military sources who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Halilovic, 36, a former officer of the Federal Yugoslav Army who joined Bosnian forces after the break-up of the old Yugoslavia, was dismissed as army commander on June 8 after occupying the post for a year.

He was later named chief of the mainly-Moslem army's General Staff, and in September tried to unite troops sent from Sarajevo to Jablanica under his command with forces from Mostar.

The area of southern Bosnia is the theatre of fighting between government and Croat forces.

Silajdzic Presents Government Program

AU2910171493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Report by Senada Cumurovic]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Cumurovic] At the beginning of this session of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, Prime Minister Designate Dr. Haris Silajdzic presented the concept of a program that will, departing from the realistic assessment of the existing situation, ascertain the key goals and define the strategy for the realization of these goals.

This government, which is taking office in a truly difficult moment for Bosnia-Herzegovina and its people, must, as a competent government, with the support of all institutions of the system, halt the tendencies for further deterioration of the situation and turn them in a positive direction, Dr. Silajdzic said in the introductory speech.

Dr. Haris Silajdzic also outlined the basic goals of the program of this war government:

[Silajdzic] The most important thing within the framework of this government, the ultimate goal, must be the restoration of peace—peace based on realistic guidelines set by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly together with firm international guarantees for the implementation of a peace solution and the prevention of a continuation of the war that would be even graver and [word indistinct].

The other important goal that I would like to single out here is the survival of the residents, as hunger and cold weather are [words indistinct]. Concrete possibilities exist to secure necessary means and (?supplies). However, the distribution of aid is the critical issue, bearing in mind the blockade of roads. There is no magic wand that would resolve this problem, but there are ways of accomplishing certain solutions and this is one of the priority tasks of the state.

Understandably, in the present circumstances, the strengthening of the overall defense capacity of the country, and especially the strengthening of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, as the key defense factor, represents a goal that is in its significance equal to the goals of restoration of peace and the survival of people in winter conditions. Without the Army there would be neither peace nor survival. In this respect, the government is faced with several tasks, ranging from securing armament, equipment, and other means important for combat readiness and efficiency of the Army, to qualitative care for families of all members of the armed forces and particularly for the families of deceased and injured soldiers.

The government is facing extremely important (?challenges) and obligations connected to the issue of refugees and displaced persons, as nearly 2.5 million people are away from their homes. For this reason, the proposed government setup envisages a special department for refugees and displaced persons.

One of the greatest priorities is an adjustment of the economic and financial system to the actual circumstances in which the country has found itself, to kickstart production and revive trade and financial flows to an extent and in a manner that is feasible, that is to say, imperative at this moment. Times of war require a war economy. All resources must be used for the successful defense and survival of the population.

[Cumurovic] [Words indistinct] regarding internal [words indistinct] Haris Silajdzic and this government intend to undertake in the coming six months. Departing from [word indistinct] of the world, which perceives Bosnia-Herzegovina as a democratically oriented and open country, whose main values are now threatened by aggressor's [word indistinct] the relations with this world will be developed (?further), Dr. Silajdzic said. In this sense:

[Silajdzic] The government will become engaged to the utmost, not only with governments, but also with the international public in order to erase this shame, humiliation, and injustice for the international community as quickly as possible. Regarding the international public and the international community in general, we intend

to propose another process to this international community that has taken the law in its hands only in the parts that were to the detriment of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The international community has prevented a victim of a foreign aggression and a UN member from using a fundamental right of the UN Charter, that is, the right to self defense. In this way it has assisted the aggression, and the international community is indirectly responsible for the deaths of 200,000 people.

In the coming period, we also intend to remind NATO of the obligation that this alliance has undertaken, to protect the civilians of Bosnia-Herzegovina from sieges and killing. Sieges, shelling, killing, and ethnic cleansing continue in front of the entire world.

[Cumurovic] Health care has been particularly emphasized in the program of the government led by Dr. Haris Silajdzic. Thus, this ministry [Health Ministry] will have clear tasks aimed at improving this sphere. The government will strive to protect cultural and historic (?assets), human rights, and strengthen the legality and safety of citizens' property. The judiciary has a special place within this framework.

There are attempts to fragment the territories controlled by the Bosnia-Herzegovina legal authorities, Dr. Silajdzic said. In this sense, this government will do everything to prevent all actions in the nature of a coup. [Words indistinct] four ministries of special importance in charge of the Bihac, Mostar, Tuzla, and Zenica districts.

After the report by the new prime minister, Dr. Silajdzic proposed deputy prime minister and ministers of 17 departments, as well as three ministers without portfolio.

[Silajdzic] I propose economist (?Edib) Bukvic as Bosnia-Herzegovina deputy prime minister; (?Muhadzi) [word indistinct] for minister [sentence as heard]; Mr. Bakir Alispahic as interior minister; Dr. Irfan Ljubljankic as foreign minister; Dr. Sead Kreso as finance minister; Professor Dr. Kasin Trnka as education minister; Prof. Dr. Rusmir Mahmutcehajic as minister of special purposes production; Magister Faruk (?Smajlbegovic) as economics minister; Engineer Munever Imanovic as minister of reconstruction and building; Prof. Dr. Dragoljub Stojanov as foreign trade minister; Prof. Dr. Arif Smajkic as minister of social welfare and refugees; Prof. Dr. Mustafa Beganovic as health minister; Prof. Dr. Enes Durakovic as minister of education, science, and sports; Ivo Knezevic as information minister; Dr. (?Salih) Kulenovic as coordination minister for the Tuzla district; Fuad (?Djigic) as coordination minister for the Zenica district; Engineer Ibrahim (?Kolundara) as coordination minister for the Mostar region; Mirsad (?Velagic) as coordination minister for the Bihac district, and Gradimir Gojer, Dr. Hasan Muratovic, and economist Nedeljko Despotovic as ministers without portfolio.

[Cumurovic] This was a report from today's session of our country's Presidency at which the government program for the coming six months has been presented. [end recording]

Bihac Radio Cited on Inter-Muslim Fighting

LD0211111493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1006 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Petrovac, 2 November (TANJUG)—Inter-Muslim confrontations on the demarcation lines in Cazin Krajina have not abated for 10 days, the local Muslim media report.

The Muslim radio in Bihac reports that one member of the 5th Corps was killed and several were wounded last night.

The western Bosnian news agency ZBIA says that the members of Ramiz Drekovic's 5th Corps are continuing unabated fierce attacks using all types of weapons against the positions firmly held by the soldiers of the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

The agency adds that the 5th Corps has formed a new sabotage-terrorist group with an aim of penetrating into Velika Kladusa and liquidating Fikret Abdic.

ZBIA adds that over 80 of Ramiz Drekovic's fighters crossed over to the side of the autonomous province of western Bosnia yesterday.

The Muslim radio in Bihac says that a new delegation is expected in Bihac today, formed by Haris Silajdzic and Alija Izetbegovic, whose task it is to work on calming the situation in the Bihac and Cazin region.

UN Spokesman Reports Fighting

AU0211115093 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Fierce fighting was reported Tuesday [2 November] between the Bosnian Army and separatists loyal to Moslem leader Fikret Abdic in the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihac, a UN spokesman said here.

Bill Aikman, spokesman for the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), said loyalist troops led by Army Commander Ramiz Drekovic launched an assault Monday evening against the separatists in the Buzim region, located about 30 kilometres (18 miles) northwest of Bihac.

He said French UN troops stationed in the area had also come under fire Monday by Serb troops east of the enclave.

Abdic, a wealthy businessman declared Bihac autonomous on September 27 sparking inter-Moslem strife.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, Serb troops overnight Sunday [31 October] shelled two towns in the western enclave of

Srebrenica, which is one of six regions in Bosnia-Herzegovina declared a safe havens by the United Nations.

Aikman said although the Srebrenica enclave had been declared a demilitarised zone and was under UN protection, there were still weapons in the region.

Meanwhile fierce fighting between the Bosnian Army and Croat troops was also reported overnight Sunday in Gornji Vakuf and the adjoining village of Batusa, both west of Sarajevo, Aikman said.

He said the clashes continued all day Monday.

Army's 5th Corps Denies Defeats in West

AU0111163493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Report by the 5th Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army]

[Excerpt] In the zone of responsibility of the 5th Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, we noted occasional provocations by the Serbian aggressor on the part of the battlefield around Bihac, [word indistinct], and Bosanska Krupa during the night and in the morning. The chetniks used antiaircraft arms to fire on the settlements of Bosanska Otoka; they also fired several destructive shells from their notorious strongholds at the industrial zone of Bosanska Krupa.

In Johovica and Skokovi, rebel infantry and occasional mortar provocations continued throughout the night, along with attacks by chetniks from the so-called republic of Serbian Krajina.

Although we are not trying to deny each instance of misinformation or lie recently attempted with unabated intensity by the Serbian and Croatian media, we simply cannot ignore last night's [word indistinct] of the Croatian Television, in which the alleged successes of the rebel forces were once again glorified. For the sake of truth, it is our duty to report that the fighters of the 5th Corps in Johovica and Skokovi are firmly holding their defense lines, responding to the rebels' attacks only in extreme situations. The Croatian Television's report, in which it is [word indistinct] claimed that the rebels had conquered (?Debeljak), is simply not correct, bearing in mind that the members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army [words indistinct] these localities since the beginning of the clashes.

During yesterday's attacks by the rebels in Johovica, the fighters and officers of [words indistinct] famous brigade defended Debeljak, which has been a constant target of the rebels, once again.

Given the fact that Serbian correspondents are visiting Velika Kladusa—that is, the headquarters of the autonomists—and are also taking part in the activities of the so-called ZBIA news agency, such information is nothing new. However, people should not believe such rumors and disinformation, whose aim is to widen the gap between the Muslims in this part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, start a fratricidal war and unnecessary bloodshed [word indistinct], and deepen the antagonisms between the communes. [passage omitted]

Abdic Claims Work on Opening Corridors Under Way

AU0111201493 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, stated that the work on realizing the statement signed in Zagreb and the declaration signed in Belgrade is under way and that the consent on opening the two corridors exists.

Abdic believes that the opening of corridors will improve the situation. This will be the most important precondition for the realization of the declarations. Commenting on the election of Haris Silajdzic as head of the Muslim government in Sarajevo, Abdic said that this was a very bad move because Silajdzic has made many unfavorable steps since the beginning of the war. In addition, as he said, Silajdzic has spent little time in the country and his knowledge of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is poor.

Says Situation 'Relatively Good'

LD0111191893 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Video report by Banja Luka Television reporter Dragan Bera on 1 November visit to Velika Kladusa, including recording of interview with Fikret Abdic—from the "Slikom na Sliku" news magazine program]

[Excerpts] [Bera] Here I am in Velika Kladusa [Fikret Abdic's stronghold]. Behind me you can see the Agrokomerc [food processing industry] food production halls, and the town itself is very quiet. However, the situation is still problematical along the demarcation line in the villages of Skokovi and Johovica where Ramiz Drekovic's army is still engaged in provocations against members of the army of the autonomous province of western Bosnia. [passage omitted]

[addressing Abdic] Mr. Abdic, what is your assessment of the current situation in the autonomous province of western Bosnia?

[Abdic] The current situation is relatively good. Our efforts are directed toward implementing the declarations signed in Zagreb and Belgrade. We are trying to explain the real nature of the declarations.

[Bera] Are you satisfied that the Serbian and Croatian sides have so far been respecting the declarations signed in Zagreb and Belgrade?

[Abdic] So far both the Serb and Croat sides have been respecting the declarations. [passage omitted]

[Bera] At the end of our report we should also say that our television crew has been welcomed very courteously in Velika Kladusa and this is yet another proof that the autonomous province of western Bosnia supports peace.

Serbs To Supply Electricity to Muslim Enclave

LD0211125793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1212 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Velika Kladusa, Nov 2 (TANJUG)—The authorities of the Bosnian Serb republic (S.R.) and those of the autonomous province of west Bosnia (APWB) on Tuesday [2 November] agreed that the former would supply the latter with electric power to revitalize economic activity in this rebelled Moslem enclave in the west of the civil war-torn ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The agreement, of which TANJUG learned from APWB Prime Minister Zlatko Jusic, provides for the S.R. to keep the APWB supplied daily with 1.5 megawatt electricity for its large agricultural complex as of November 2.

"Our priority is to strengthen the economy according to the already according to the already drawn-up programs," said Jusic, adding that "this is the primary prerequisite for the establishment of peace" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where local Serbs, Croats and Moslems have been waging a civil war for the past nineteen months.

Jusic said that the APWB was now developing telecommunication, transport and power systems in its territory.

He recalled that still before the Bosnian civil war, the federal units of the former Yugoslavia had depended on one another. He regarded the re-opening of economic ties necessary for a restored economy and for the "maintenance of peace."

Late September in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, the APWB was proclaimed by followers of Fikret Abdic, chief political rival of the radical Bosnian Moslem Leader Alija Izetbegovic.

Unlike Izetbegovic, who has for months declined to sign a peace accord, Abdic maintains that the war must be stopped urgently and the economy renewed. To this end and on behalf of the APWB, last October he signed declarations on peace and cooperation with representatives of the Bosnian Serbs and Croats.

Power deliveries to the APWB and the opening of ground corridors are results of his accord with the Bosnian Serbs.

Clashes Among Muslims Reported in Travnik

AU0111154893 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Deadly clashes among the Muslims are also occurring in Travnik. A local Muslim radio in Travnik reported this morning that armed clashes between sections of the Muslim army loyal to Izetbegovic's authorities in Sarajevo and the fighters of the newly founded autonomous province of central Bosnia took place in the streets of the town last night. Three people were killed and a dozen wounded.

Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna reported last night that the situation in central Bosnia has deteriorated after the decision of the new head of the Muslim government in Sarajevo, Haris Silajdzic, to appoint ministers for the Tuzla and Zenica regions.

Izetbegovic thinks that he can rule with decrees, just like Yeltsin. He does not have a clue what is really going on in the Travnik or Zenica, nor does he know anything about the extent of despair among the Muslim people following the rejection of the Geneva peace agreement. This was stated by Ramiz Hadziakic, one of the Muslim leaders in the Travnik region, and, as he himself says, a former member of the Party of Democratic Action.

New Presidency Member Komsic Sworn In

AU0111200193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] At the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency session held today, newly elected Presidency member Ivo Komsic took a solemn oath in the presence of all Presidency members and President Alija Izetbegovic. Addressing correspondents afterwards, Ivo Komsic said:

[Begin Komsic recording] I have become a Presidency member on the basis of the 1990 electoral results and at the proposal of the Croatian Peasant Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Coordinating Committee, which is comprised of the most prominent institutions of the Croatian ethnic community—the Croatian Democratic Community of Sarajevo, the Croatian Peasant Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Croatian Defense Council of Sarajevo, the Croatian cultural association Napredak, Caritas, the Croatian Economic Chamber, the Franciscan province of [word indistinct] Bosnia, and the Bosnian Archbishop's diocese.

Until this crisis is solved, my work in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency will focus on protecting the strategic interests of the Croatian peoples, which include ending the war as soon as possible, helping the Croatian people survive in their homes and ensuring their equality with other peoples living in Bosnia-Herzegovina, concluding a constitutional agreement that will preserve Bosnia-Herzegovina as a state community of equal peoples to at least the minimum level reached at the Geneva negotiations, and restoring mutual trust among the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In my work, I will have the support of not only the Croatian institutions that I have mentioned, but also Croatian policy as a whole. The entire opposition in Croatia expresses open support for this. Croatian authorities are also sympathetic. [end recording]

After the swearing-in ceremony, the Presidency passed a decision on a certain number of cadre changes in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic informed the Presidency members of the government measures to secure food and energy resources.

Allied Planes Drop Aid Over Maglaj, Tesanj

LD0211092893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 0905 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] One German, one French, and six American cargo planes dropped humanitarian aid over Maglaj and Tesanj last night. Up until now, allied planes have dropped 8,790 tonnes of food and 154 tonnes of medicine over Bosnia.

Serbs Says Red Cross Helicopter Supplying Muslim Arms

LD0211112393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1101 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Borci Kod Konjica, Nov 2 (TANJUG)—A white-painted Moslem police helicopter with Red Cross markings is supplying ammunition to Moslem units loyal to Alija Izetbegovic in the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb military sources assert.

Colonel Risto Lazarevic, commander of the Bosnian Serb units in the village of Bijela near Konjic in central Bosnia, said that Moslem formations received mine detonators smuggled by certain UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] members, and ammunition from the Igman factory in Konjic.

Serb sources said the Igman factory was turning out 7.62-mm, 7.65-mm and 12.7-mm bullets, and 82-mm and 120-mm mortar bombs. It was built underground to hold out nuclear strikes.

Exchange of Prisoners in Konjic Area Postponed

AU0111202293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Report by Borka Rudic from Konjic]

[Excerpts] Konjic was marked today by infantry arms fire aimed at the lines of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army defenders. Snipers aimed at the town from the positions of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]. The intensity of infantry arms fire increased slightly in the evening. Fortunately, the Konjic Hospital emergency ward has reported that no one was injured today. [passage omitted]

Selim Novalic, president of the Communal Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, informed correspondnts today that commission members and Red Cross representatives met with representatives of the Serbian aggressor in the village of Bijela yesterday. Both sides agreed to postpone negotiations on the exchange of prisoners for a certain period of time, since the Serbian side has still not provided the necessary information concerning three imprisoned Muslims who, as the HVO claims, were taken from Croatian camps in Turija and Zabrdje to Serbian camps. Selim Novalic emphasized that until it is ascertained where Rasim Makan, Adil (?Balnic), and (?Nuset) Teletovic are, the release of prisoners from the Konjic Assembly Center will not be negotiated, nor will the other points reached in a joint agreement on 23 October. [passage omitted]

Karadzic Criticizes Declaration on Serbian Borders

AU0211101793 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 23 Oct 93 p 10

[Report by R. Gutic: "The Declaration Is Being Adapted"]

[Text] The declaration on the future of the Serbian part of Herzegovina, in which, among other things, its future borders are defined, and which was made by a group of experts from Belgrade of Herzegovinian origin, led by Professor Milan Bucinic, caused very tumultuous reactions among the leaders of the republic of Srpska.

In connection with this declaration, Radovan Karadzic recently said: "It would be much better if the Herzegovina Serbs who live and work in Belgrade would continue to send help to their native region as they have done so far instead of trying to politically define the borders of Herzegovina, because only the people who are suffering here are entitled to draw the borders."

The president of the republic of Srpska said that the declaration, which was up for discussion in the meeting in Bileca last week, contains "the tendency to separate and make regions in Herzegovina." The meeting was attended by representatives of the eastern Herzegovina civil authorities and by Serbs who live in Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Pristina.

"We, in the republic of Srpska, are aware of the fact that the biggest problem for the Serbs is how to make a territorial partition, a problem that we have been dealing with since Kosovo. A united Serbian state must be the Serbian people's only aim," Karadzic added.

The following was also heard on that occasion: "The highest authorities of the republic of Srpska have already defined the borders, although the border along the Neretva River and the access to the coast are still open. Why should things be discussed in an informal meeting [in Bileca] that the Serbian assembly has already accepted?"

What do the authors of the declaration actually propose and require?

As far as the borders of Serbian Herzegovina are concerned, they think the border should run along the left bank of the Neretva River, from Kula to Grabovica, across Mt. Prenj (Zelena Glava, 2,103 meters above sea

level), back to the Neretva, including Bijela and Berci, along Rakitnica and the slopes of Mt. Bjelasnica, Visocica (1,967 meters above sea level), Treskavica (2,086 meters above sea level), across the Rogoj Saddle, Mt. Jahorina (1,910 meters above sea level), through the Praca Valley and along the Lim River. In the south, the border should be the already existing border between the communes of Trebinje and Neum, the present border with Croatia, and the lines of communication between Trebinje and Dubrovnik reaching Dubac to include the Adriatic Coast to the Ostre Cape.

"We would like to mention that this is the minimum length of the coast, which enables the state it belongs to to use the sea, according to the international rules on the use of seas," it is stated in the declaration.

These borders encircle the area of approximately 7,000 square kilometers, consisting of the low or Mediterranean Herzegovina, Rudine, Povrsi, and Brda or high Herzegovina, and Gornje Podrinje [upper Drina River]. This area is a complete geological system, in which all of its structural parts are geographical units. Taking into consideration the geographic characteristics of this area, it has to be said that this is the minimum area necessary for the Serbian population to survive.

Serbian Herzegovina must have access to the world, and this can be achieved by granting it access to the coast and a free zone in Dubrovnik, at least until a Serbian harbor is built, as well as allowing it to use the lines of communication along the Neretva Valley.

Commenting on the proposals offered in this declaration, Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the assembly of the republic of Srpska, said for VECERNJE NOVOSTI:

"It was normal to expect from Herzegovina Serbs who live in Belgrade that they would be worried about their native region, which must not in any case be characterized as an evil intention. From a global point of view, we have to be cautious about regional elements because they can develop into separatism. More than any other territory within the republic of Srpska because of its vicinity to Montenegro, the Serbian Herzegovina could have shown separatism, but in spite of that, the Herzegovina Serbs remained proper patriots and subordinated their local interests to our general interest."

After the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Association of the Herzegovina Serbs from Belgrade and the Herzegovina communes, the declaration was on its way to adaptation.

[Box, p 10]

Union

"It is necessary that Serbian Herzegovina receive the status of a territorial or regional community. This must be respected in all versions of a future Serbian state to which Serbian Herzegovina will belong to," it is stated in the declaration.

That is why the republic of Srpska should create an economic union or some other aspect of economic cooperation with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as soon as the political conditions make this possible.

Krajina Serbs Claim Attacks Stepped Up

AU0111160393 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Report by Danko Peric]

[Text] Even though the Croatian side demanded a seven-day cease-fire for All Saints' Day, it continued to fiercely attack the north Dalmatian front. This was stated by the press center of the Serbian army of Krajina's General Staff.

Cista Mala in the Skradin commune and the wider area of Nadin near Benkovac were shelled this morning. The fiercest attacks by the Croatian Army were reported on the Benkovac front. Biljane Gornje were attacked by tanks on two occasions.

Attacks with the Oganj multiple rocket launcher were also stepped up. The Croatian Army also carried out mortar attacks in the Novigrad commune. Karin came under an artillery attack. In Vrlika, Skradin commune, and along the entire line of separation in Lika, Kordun, and Banija, especially the broader area of Glina, the Croatian Army carried out attacks with infantry weapons. These attacks and provocations resulted in substantial material damage.

Army Takes Control of Western Slavonian Village

LD0111150293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1355 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Okucani, 1 Nov (TANJUG)—The Croatian Army yesterday [31 October] took control of positions in the village of Masicka Sagovina in Western Slavonia, the command of the 18th corps of the Serb Krajina army [SVK, Srpska Vojska Krajine] said in a statement today.

Immediately after they had taken control of the village, the Croatian Army began firing from small arms and antiaircraft guns at the Serb villages in the area of Filipovac and Lipik. The command of the 18th Corps says that the reports carried by the Croatian media on the alleged Serb military operations against Lipik, Pakrac, Nova Gradiska, and Novska are completely false.

According to the same source, a meeting had been scheduled for yesterday between the commander of the SVK 18th Corps, the commander of the Croatian Army for Sector West and the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] officer in charge. The objective of the meeting was to examine the situation in the context of taking measures to establish a lasting peace, in accordance with UN Resolution 871.

The UNPROFOR commander cancelled the meeting because the Croatian Army had not withdrawn from the village of Sirinci.

German Official Supports Association With EC

AU2910190493 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Report by Zvone Zorko]

[Text] Minister President Erwin Teufel is coming to Slovenia as a representative of the German federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, which has 10 million inhabitants and with which Slovenia has always maintained extremely good relations, primarily economic ones. There are also approximately 10,000 Slovenes living and working in Baden-Wuerttemberg, who are, as the high guest stated after talks with Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle, respected residents of this state and diligent workers.

In his statement, Mr. Teufel also emphasized that German policy supports the efforts of Slovenia to accomplish association with the European Community:

[Begin Teufel recording. Teufel speaking in German, with superimposed translation in Slovene] With its economic strength and [words indistinct] as well as with its technological development, Slovenia is doubtlessly an important segment of the European Community. By its historic origin and its political (?aspirations) toward Europe, and also because of them, Slovenia also belongs in the European Community. I am pleased that I will be able to become better acquainted with your country in the talks with the highest Slovene representatives. At the same time I would also like to learn of the possibilities [word indistinct] of the possibilities of the German federal state via economic partnership [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle said the following about the visit of Mr. Erwin Teufel and the talks with him:

[Peterle] I am glad that we will continue and refresh the cooperation with Baden-Wuerttemberg, with which Slovenia truly enjoys traditionally friendly relations, and particularly economic links. The visit [words indistinct] speaks of this. We have the highest degree of economic cooperation with this state and we have established the possibilities of widening this cooperation on both sides. The German side is satisfied with the cooperation of the Slovene side. [end recording]

The minister president of the German federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg today also met with Prime Minister Dr. Drnovsek and Slovene Metropolitan Alojzij Sustar. The German delegation will also visit the Eta factory in Cerkno and a refugee center in Skofja Loka.

In the evening they will meet with Slovene President Milan Kucan at a dinner in Strmol castle.

Federal

Minister Rejects UN Charges on Human Rights

LD0111164793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, 1 Nov (TANJUG)—Margit Savovic, federal minister for human rights and minority rights, has sent her reply to the UN Human Rights Commission's memorandum on so-called violations of the Hungarian minority's rights in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Federal Ministry for Information has announced. The note also includes two of the 1,454 complaints sent to the commission by citizens of Hungarian nationality living in Vojvodina.

In her letter the federal minister points out striking similarities in the contents, form, and vocabulary used in the complaints, and stresses that even a cursory insight into their content indicates that this is a politically motivated and organized campaign of writing and addressing letters to the United Nations. None of the main allegations in these complaints is true. For example, what kind of connection can be found between human rights violations and the totally legal military draft of citizens and the forcible discharge of this obligation in the event of a conscript refusing, on no legal grounds, to undertake it? Is anyone who voluntarily leaves the country to dodge his military service a case of "ethnic cleansing?" Or is it rather a case of the authorities being too tolerant as they fail to foil such behavior?

Reflecting on the fact that the border between two sovereign states, Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is ignored, and to certain demands to the effect that refugees should not be welcomed in Vojvodina, Margit Savovic points out that these complaints evidently do not refer to the matters processed by the UN Human Rights Commission and that they should be treated as political pamphlets.

In future we will no longer reply to such pamphlets, as we believe that the dignity and basic purpose of the United Nations' existence should be protected. Hence, it is inappropriate to demand that such an organization, which was established as protection against a revival of Nazi horrors, should reinstate Hungary's southern border along the lines drawn by Nazism and removed in a legal and legitimate way by the anti-Nazi struggle and its protagonists. It is inappropriate to demand that this organization, which lists humanism and its protection as one of its main aims, should hamper activities of a totally humanitarian nature such as providing for those people who have been afflicted by war, under the pretext of protecting some rights which are under no threat.

The true reason for all this is pure intolerance and inhumane views geared to dishonorable political aims. We do not want to take part in this kind of activity even if this is a matter of replying to allegations like the ones discussed here. In any other respect, regarding the issue of protecting and implementing the aims enshrined in the charter and other UN documents, we offer every kind of cooperation, it is stressed at the end of the letter.

Serbia

Seselj Warns Against 'State of Emergency'

AU0111185293 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 29 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by M. Mikuljanac: "Teams Are Searching"]

[Text] Belgrade—"I have some very interesting items for you," Vojislav Seselj, leader of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS], said yesterday at the beginning of the news conference, and produced four crumpled pieces of paper from his pocket.

The first three pieces of paper (?documents) came from anonymous agents of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, anonymous officers from the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, and SRS members in Bosnia. They all inform Seselj that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Security, and the Yugoslav Army have organized teams of their agents with the task of collecting compromising material (war crimes, looting, corporate crime), which could in any way be attributed to the SRS and its leader. Seselj's sources claim that there are three such teams in Bijeljina, two in Banja Luka, and one in Doboj, while there are many smaller teams in Serbia.

Seselj's "agents" claim that the Yugoslav Army's security services did not get this assignment from the military command, but from Serbian officials—that is, from Radmilo Bogdanovic—while Deputy Police Commander Milan Tepavcevic was in charge of this operation on behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Seselj claims that all the possible findings of these teams will be forgeries "since the SRS volunteers have never committed any organized criminal acts."

The leader of the Radicals yesterday produced a piece of paper, which he said came from the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS]. It says that the priority of the Socialists' election campaign will be to discredit their opponents by publicly compromising their leaders, and perhaps even prosecuting them, by polarizing the membership and the leadership and by transferring some leaders into the SPS.

The correspondents were told that Vojislav Seselj would head all the SRS lists at the elections, and that they would not differ much from last year's. The SRS budget for December 1993 is a secret (last year's was 200,000 German marks), and the main slogan will again be: "May the best ones win."

Seselj called on all the citizens of Serbia to vote at the elections, and stated that he was not expecting any spectacular results (or the victory of the SPS). He also announced that the party would continue to function even if he was arrested, which is a possibility that some other SRS leading members are taking very seriously.

[Box, p 4]

Danger of State of Emergency

"The SPS is very close to declaring a state of emergency and we all have to oppose that. That is very dangerous," Seselj stated. Asked whether "the SPS can be overthrown peacefully," Seselj said that the Radicals would like that to happen but that the chances were slim.

The Radicals announced yesterday that they would not cooperate with [Zeljko Raznjatovic] Arkan's Party of Serbian Unity "for several reasons that we do not want to state now."

The team from Radio Television Serbia did not attend yesterday's SRS news conference, but for the first time after a year and a half, the cameras of the Independent Television-Studio B [NTV-Studio B] showed up.

Serb Commander Outlines Reasons for Blockade

AU0211111493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0921 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 2/11/1993—The Navrom SA Giurgiu [Danube] river shipping company informs that no new elements emerged as regards the situation of the Romanian passenger vessels Steaua Dunarii and Steaua Deltei. The two passenger vessels belonging to the Giurgiu shipping company keep being blocked on the Danube by the Serbian non-governmental organizations White Rose and New Byzantium.

The chief of the blockade, Jovica Vlahovic, said that the Romanian vessels were blocked because "the Romanian party does not cooperate in seeking out modalities to allow the departure of the Yugoslav vessels arrested in Giurgiu," that carry humanitarian cargoes of oil for Yugoslavia.

Commander Vlahovic stated that an all-out blockade was instituted on September 28 according to the basis of a tonne-for-tonne system and asked that the UN should allow humanitarian transports.

The captain of the Steaua Dunarii vessel was contacted by radio and he said that since October 18 the ship was detained in Belgrade by the White Rose and the New Byzantinum organizations. He said that the ship would be running out of victuals in two days. On the other hand, a crew member needed surgery and the treatment in Belgrade could not be afforded as it was far too expensive.

Belgrade Without Heating in Freezing Temperatures

LD0111133493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1239 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 1 (TANJUG)—Draconic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia achieved 'full effect' overnight when sub-zero temperatures hit Belgrade and its residents, children and the ill among them, left without heating in their homes, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, factories and offices.

Shortages of fuel oil have invalidated the legal prescription that the heating season shall begin a third consecutive day of temperatures below 12 degrees centigrade.

Despite warnings by the Yugoslav authorities about disastrous effects of the upcoming winter on city people's life and health in case the import of fuel oil is not approved, the United Nations have not yet answered the relevant requests.

In addition to two million its residents, Belgrade has 173,000 displaced from the war-ridden parts of former Yugoslavia. A large number of the refugees are children.

The situation in hospitals is dramatic. All medical supplies are lacking, and sub-zero temperatures are feared to increase both the infection risk and the mortality rate among patients.

Economic sanctions have pushed the Belgraders' living standard down to the very bottom, and the different consequences of the winter may be disastrous.

The sanctions were imposed in May last year for Yugoslavia's alleged involvement in the civil war in the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Macedonia

Companies Fail To Pay Employees' Wages

AU0111184893 Skopje MIC in English 1 Nov 93

[Unattributed report: "One-Fifth of Employees in Macedonia Without Wages"]

[Text] According to published official figures, in September this year, the amount intended for the payment of wages in the Macedonian companies has increased 14.3 percent compared to August this year, while in the same period, retail prices have gone up 6.5 percent.

These figures show that every fifth employee in the republic has not received regular wages for one or more months back.

The situation has deteriorated mostly in the state trade companies, in the textiles and shoe industry, in the field of construction, the metal processing industry, catering, and some agricultural and mining combines.

Greece Hampers Delivery of Cars From Korea

AU0111184793 Skopje MIC in English 1 Nov 93

[Unattributed report: "Ship With 154 Vehicles for Macedonia Detained"]

[Text] The Liberian ship "Eternal Glory," carrying 154 automobiles produced in Korea, and intended for Macedonia, was detained at the Greek port of Piraeus last week.

The vehicles were detained because in the documents stuck to their windows, Macedonia was stated as the final destination.

Official Greek authorities, following instructions from the Greek Ministry of Finance, stuck new stickers over the previous ones, which had "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" written on them, and stickers which read "Macedonia is Greek for 3,000 years."

The opposition Greek conservative newspaper ELEVTHEROTIPIA on the occasion of this event, published and article titled "Skopje Provocation in Piraeus."

Gligorov Opposes New Conference on Former Yugoslavia

AU0111174793 Skopje MIC in English 1 Nov 93

[Unattributed report: "Kiro Gligorov: 'Everything Cannot Be Put in the Same Basket'"]

[Text] According to the official announcement, when asked by [UNPROFOR] General Cot about the initiatives for a new international conference on Yugoslavia, President Gligorov said: "In each of the former Yugoslav republics, separate processes are occurring, and the problems cannot be put in the same basket."

The Macedonian president emphasized that Macedonia does not have any territorial pretensions toward any neighbor, is not taking part in the war, and is still interested in a peaceful settlement of all questions in the process of transition, as one of the equal successors of the former Yugoslavia.

The Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Slovenia, and other independent countries should be enabled to receive appropriate help from the international community. According to the president, as a member of the United Nations, Macedonia should independently build its relations with the other countries on international principles.

During the talks with General Cot, Gligorov once again repeated that it would not be realistic to expect one conference to solve such complex and heterogeneous problems present in this region.

Opposition Leader Views Albanian Power

AU0111153193 Split NEDJELJNA DALMACIJA in Serbo-Croatian 20 October 93 pp 15, 16

[Interview with Ljupco Georgievski, president of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity, by Diana Rexhepi; place and date not given: "Macedonia Also Wants Access to the Sea"]

[Text] Ljupco Georgievski, president of the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity], strongest opposition party in Macedonia, was born on 16 January 1966. He has a degree in comparative literature from the Skopje faculty and he has published two books of poems. In 1991, he became the vice president of Macedonia but soon resigned. He is presently the leader of the Macedonian opposition. Ljupco Georgievski is a young, tolerant, and extremely capable politician, who has yet to reach his prime. In his interview for NEDJELJNA DALMACIJA, he comments on the position of his party after it won the elections, on the possibility of the war spreading to Macedonia, possible Balkan union, etc.

Convenient Coalition With the Communists

[Rexhepi] Mr. Georgievski, your party got the largest number of votes at the elections but has no power. The Communists have the power. Do you think there is a connection between the situation in Macedonia and the return of the Communists to power in some eastern countries?

[Georgievski] It is true that the Communists have regained power in some East European countries after their historical fall. We should all be worried about that fact. We must not underestimate communism in Macedonia either. It is deep-rooted there; it has its institutions in the authorities, mechanisms for pressure and propaganda, so we can expect that the Communists will get a large number of votes at the next elections. On the other hand, there is a common need finally to break communism in Macedonia. Macedonian Communists presently rule with only 28 percent of votes won at the elections, thanks to the coalition with parties of the Albanians. Unfortunately, it is like that. What will happen at the next elections will depend on future circumstances and new coalitions. Let me tell you another thing—when international organizations come to Macedonia, parties of the Albanians complain that the Albanians are mistreated by the authorities. That is nonsense—they complain about the acts of the authorities in which they themselves participate! When, for example, during the riots at Bitpazar in Skopje, three Albanians and one Macedonian woman were killed, Albanian parties protested and their representatives in the Sobranje [Macedonian parliament] called on Interior Minister Frckovski to answer for that. I told the Albanians that there is no use crying and making protests—they should vote for his resignation. United, we could have replaced him at once. When we were voting for his resignation, the Albanians abstained from voting, and we were the only ones in favor of his resignation, which was not enough to replace him. How can I then believe the Albanians are frightened and imperiled?

[Rexhepi] You mentioned possible new coalitions. Why did your party not form a coalition with Albanian parties?

[Georgievski] I have to tell you that, with regards to that, there is no problem in our party but in parties of the Albanians. They obviously prefer the coalition with former

Communists. Unfortunately, this is indicative of a quite awkward thing. It indicates that the Albanians in Macedonia and their leaders have still not broken away from communism as an ideology. That means that they still support that ideology since they formed a coalition with the Communists. There is an obvious difference between the Albanians in Kosovo and those in the Republic of Macedonia. While the Albanians from Kosovo most fiercely oppose the Serbs, in Macedonia, Serbian and Albanian interests and the interests of their leaders are identical. It mostly reflects on the following: At the moment, the government of Macedonia is the one which is mostly violating sanctions toward Serbia, and Albanians form one-third of that government. The deputy prime minister is Albanian, the finance minister is an Albanian, the minister of science and the welfare minister are Albanians, and we have an Albanian minister without portfolio. Four deputy ministers are also Albanians: the ministers of defense, health, education.... Therefore, the Albanians make up a large percentage of the Macedonian government, so we cannot separate them from that government's present politics toward Serbia.

Too Early for a Balkan Alliance

[Rexhepi] Since you mentioned violating sanctions imposed on Serbia, is Serbia not, in a way, blackmailing Macedonia? Is Macedonia preserving its peace and territory by violating sanctions?

[Georgievski] The danger of the war spreading to Macedonia has been present for already three years. I do not think that there is a danger of direct Serbian aggression against Macedonia, because Serbia has gotten a bad reputation in the eyes of the international public and is exhausted by the war. There can be a war in Macedonia only if there will be direct conflicts between the Albanians and the Serbs over Kosovo, for, in that case, the war would spread to Macedonia. Both sides want to use Macedonia for their interests. Serbian blackmail you mentioned should not be used by the Macedonian government to justify violating the sanctions imposed on Serbia. We would understand the government if the matter at issue were only some strategic products or strategic relations which were established decades ago in the former joint state, but sanctions are being violated with regards to all kinds of products, in all branches of industry.

Macedonia Wants Access to the Sea!

[Rexhepi] There are some indications that the next conference on Balkan problems could originate from the idea of creating a new Balkan federation. What will be the stand of Macedonia regarding that matter?

[Georgievski] It is too early to talk about any kind of Balkan alliance. This war must end and all new states must recognize each other, establish normal relations and contacts, and act out their independence. I would not like to talk about an alliance but about a Balkan free economic zone. I think that is more realistic and more likely. But it will be another ten years before we even start talking about it.

[Rexhepi] Today it is very popular to ask for an access to the sea. Macedonia does not have an access to the sea either. Will it demand it?

[Georgievski] Naturally, an access to the sea is of a strategic importance for Macedonia. We have two possibilities of accessing the sea. Those are free zones of the port of Thessaloniki in Greece and the port of Durres in Albania. Those are ideal solutions and there have been talks concerning their realization. I am sorry that the roads toward Albania are very undeveloped. The EC will have to invest in the construction of the roads and railroads. It is very important to construct the Skopje-Tirana highway.

[Rexhepi] For goodneighborly relations with Albania it is very important to solve the status of the Albanians in Macedonia.

[Georgievski] I can say that all parties in Macedonia, including our party VMRO-DPMNE, have the same clear view that all minorities living in Macedonia must enjoy all human rights according to all international documents. I personally think, and so does my party, that the Albanians must not be denied any of the rights they were granted so far. We are prepared to grant the highest level of human rights according to the Geneva principles, those of the CSCE....

Can the State Hide People?

[Rexhepi] Does that right include the right of the Albanians to use their language in the parliament?

[Georgievski] The official language of the Republic of Macedonia is Macedonian. If some other language were spoken in the Sobranje, that would mean the federalization of the Macedonian state. We will not accept that. Albanian parties are becoming more and more aggressive in demanding the organization of Macedonia as a federation of Macedonians and Albanians or a kind of a political autonomy for the Albanians. And while there could be no other language except Macedonian in the Macedonian Sobranje, I guarantee that in town assemblies of Gostivar, Tetovo, and Debra, the Albanian language is widely spoken. Eighteen percent of Macedonia is Albanian. From the 1951-1991 census, we can see that the percentage of Albanians has increased from 11 percent to 18 percent. I am saying this because some are making calculations with the number of Albanians saying that there are almost as many Albanians in Macedonia as there are Macedonians. My question for them is could the Macedonian Government constantly, for 50 years, forge results of censes by decreasing the number of Albanians? I personally think that is impossible. Anyway, today there are so many Albanians in the Macedonian Government that it is impossible for their Macedonian colleagues to hide the documents of the census! According to those calculations, more than 50

percent of Albanians were not entered in the census and put in the percentage of population. I would like someone to explain to me how is it possible for a state to hide so many people!

Kosovo

Police Investigate Rugova's 'Tax Collectors'

AU0111164293 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Thanks to recent investigations by the security organs of Urosevac and other communes in Kosmet [Kosovo-Metohija], a number of Rugova's tax collectors were caught in the act. This is claimed in today's issue of Pristina JEDINSTVO. According to the paper, they were in possession of a considerable amount of money, tax documents, and seals bearing the name of the republic of Kosovo.

Rugova's tax collectors based abroad are collecting, as they admitted, one-half of the total taxes for their phantom republic. The foreign currency is being sent via the post offices of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The author of the article observes that, despite clear evidence that Rugova's parallel tax system is undermining the foundations of the Serbian state in this region, the relevant judicial authorities are not taking the appropriate measures for the seriousness of this problem.

Albanians Allegedly Die From Police Torture

AU0111123893 Tirana ATA in English 1145 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Tirana, November 1 (ATA)— Fourteen Albanians from Kosova have died under torture by Serbian police during the recent years, RILINDJA of October 30 writes, referring to a report from the Council of the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Pristina. The deaths have also been confirmed by the lawyers of the detainees, who testified to the presence of signs of torture carried out by the Serbian police on the bodies of the deceased.

The council says that many of the Albanians arrested during the past 3 months have become permanent invalids due to the bad physical and mental treatment by police. A recent case is Salih Salihu who is in serious condition in the Pristina area prison. Salih Salihu, who was arrested in July on charges of having endangered the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, has asked several times to see a doctor, but the Serbian authorities have denied his requests.